



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Jan. 8-14, 2016

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LA Times, Other Media Report on Bariatric Surgery and Mental Health

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported Jan. 12 on a UCLA-led study suggesting that mental health conditions, such as depression and binge eating disorder, may be twice as common among bariatric surgery patients than in the general U.S. population, prior to the procedure. The study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, garnered significant coverage from other media, including Jan. 12 by [HealthDay News](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Codex](#), [MedicalResearch.com](#), and [Healio-Psychiatric Annals](#); Jan. 13 by [MedPage Today](#), [HealthCanal](#), the [Regal Tribune](#), [Modern Readers](#), [Science World Report](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Counsel & Heal](#), [Psychiatry Advisor](#), [The Monitor Daily](#), and [Medical Daily](#); and Jan. 14 by [Latinos Health](#). The Los Angeles Times story ran in the [Sun Herald](#), [The Columbus Dispatch](#), the [Yakima Herald](#), the [Salina Journal](#), the [Record Searchlight](#), [Sci-Tech Today](#), and others. The HealthDay article was carried by [U.S. News & World Report](#), [WebMD](#), [Doctors Lounge](#) and many other outlets. Television coverage included reports Jan. 13 on [WBAL-TV](#) (Baltimore) and [KSNV-TV](#) (Las Vegas), Jan. 14 on

[WDSU-TV](#) (New Orleans), and many other affiliates. Lead author Dr. Aaron Dawes, a general surgery resident at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar, was quoted in the coverage.

Stroke Survey Draws International, National Coverage

Nearly 400 news outlets featured a UCLA-driven survey that found young adults under 45 were unlikely to go to the hospital to seek help for symptoms of stroke. Dr. David Liebeskind, a professor of neurology, director of Outpatient Stroke and Neurovascular Programs and director of the Neurovascular Imaging Research Core at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was featured. Coverage included:

- More than 180 television outlets, including [Fox 11 News](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [CNN's Headline News](#), [WUSA-TV](#) (Washington), [KXAS-TV](#) (Dallas), [KFQX-TV](#) (Denver), [WGCL-TV](#) (Atlanta), [KOTV-TV](#) (Tulsa, Okla.), [WESH-TV](#) (Orlando, Fla.), [KIMT-TV](#) (Rochester, Minn.), [W GAL-TV](#) (Harrisburg, Pa.), [KSNV-TV](#) (Las Vegas) and [KFJX-TV](#) (Joplin, Mo.).
- Eighteen radio stations, including [KPCC 89.3FM](#), [WWJ-AM](#) (Detroit), [KCBS-AM](#) (San Francisco) and [KFBK-AM](#) (Sacramento, Calif.).
- More than 200 online news outlets, including [Today.com](#), [MSN Lifestyle](#) and [MSN Espanol](#), [UPI](#), [Yahoo! News](#), the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.), [WebMD](#), [Examiner.com](#), [MedPage Today](#), [Science World Report](#), [Med India](#), [HealthDay News](#), [Malay Mail](#), [Health.com](#), [STAT](#) and [Neurology Advisor](#).

In all, nearly 700 million people were reached through the campaign to raise awareness about stroke in young adults.

UCLA Alum Meets Blood Donors Who Saved His Life

An emotional UCLA Blood & Platelet Center event that introduced a UCLA alumnus to three of the 27 strangers whose blood and platelet donations helped save his life after a near-fatal car accident was covered Jan. 13 by [KNX 1070AM](#), [KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [Telemundo](#), [Univision](#) and Estrella TV. The coverage featured interviews with UCLA alumnus and patient, Jorge Sincuir; his brother and recent UCLA grad Andrew Sincuir; anesthesiologist Dr. Christopher Ortiz; and UCLA employees and blood donors Charles Bolan and Cari Blitzer. The Sincuir brothers were regular platelet donors as UCLA undergrads, and Jorge is earning hours toward becoming a licensed clinical laboratory technician—the professional who processes blood donations for patient transfusions.

PrEP as Safe as Aspirin

A study suggesting that oral emtricitabine and tenofovir, two HIV antiviral medications used in combination as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to prevent infection with HIV, is as safe to use as aspirin garnered media coverage including Jan. 7 in [Instinct Magazine](#); Jan. 8 in [Metro Weekly](#), [Pink News](#) (U.K.), [I'm Still Josh](#), and [Out Magazine](#); Jan. 11 in [On Top Magazine](#), [MD Magazine](#), and [Gay Times](#) (U.K.); Jan. 12 in [AIDSMeds](#), and Jan. 14 in [Pride Source](#), [Science Codex](#), [Infection Control Today](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [Monthly Prescribing Reference](#). The study was conducted and written by Noah Kojima, a second year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

A New Direction for Autism Research

UCLA research that discovered an untapped region of the brain contains a goldmine of drug targets for new autism therapies was covered Jan. 11 by [Examiner.com](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Health News Digest](#) and [Laboratory Equipment](#); Jan. 12 by [Neuroscience News](#), [Neuroscientist News](#), [Science Codex](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Scicasts](#); Jan. 13 by the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.) and [Lab Manager](#); and Jan. 14 by [News-Medical.net](#) and [Monthly Prescribing Reference](#). The study was led by Dr. Kelsey Martin, interim dean and a professor of biological chemistry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Homicide Rate Cuts Average Male Life Expectancy in Mexico

A UCLA Fielding School of Public Health study finding that Mexico's high homicide rate significantly reduced overall male life expectancy in Mexico continued garnering media attention. Reports were carried Jan. 9 by [The Tico Times](#) (Costa Rica) and [Inquisitr](#), and Jan. 7 by [Fusion](#). Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez, a lead investigator on the study and assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the coverage.

UCLA Operation Mend Gets a Boost

[KPCC 89.3FM](#) reported Jan. 14 that LINE-X, a spray-on coating franchise, donated \$50,000 to the UCLA Operation Mend program. Melanie Gideon, program director of UCLA Operation Mend, was interviewed.

Sneaky Sources of Sodium in Your Diet

[CBS News.com](#) featured Jan. 11 a story that Americans consume too much salt. The article included tips from Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian with UCLA Health and an adjunct assistant professor with the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on ways to cut out salt from everyday foods.

Santa Monica Physician Weighs in on Potatoes

Dr. Aldo Palmieri, chair of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented Jan. 13 for a [CBS Newspath](#) segment on the correlation between potatoes and gestational diabetes. The story, which appeared on several CBS affiliates nationwide and as a print article on CBS.com, included an interview with a pregnant woman delivering at the BirthPlace-Santa Monica.

Restoring Life's Balance Through Neuroscience and Self-Understanding

Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and executive chair of the UCLA Department of Psychiatry, was the focus of a Jan. 8 Q and A in [MedicalXpress](#) that explored themes from his book "The Well-Tuned Brain: Neuroscience and the Life Well Lived."

Late-Night Snacking: As Bad on Memory as the Waistline?

KPCC's [Take Two](#) reported Jan. 7 on findings about the effect on memory of midnight snacking by Dawn Loh, postdoctoral fellow in the Laboratory of Circadian and Sleep Medicine, and Christopher Colwell, lab director and professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences in the Semel Institute.

Sounding the Alarm on a Looming Public Health Threat

Ron Brookmeyer, professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, has received ongoing coverage for his work calling attention to the future epidemic of Alzheimer's in the United States, projecting that prevalence of the disease will nearly quadruple by the middle of this century. Originally published in the Autumn/Winter 2015 issue of [UCLA Public Health Magazine](#), the story was picked up by Jan. 8 by [The Daily Democrat](#).

Discrimination can be Harmful to your Mental Health

An article about the effects on mental health due to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other characteristics, originally published in the Autumn/Winter 2015 issue of [UCLA Public Health Magazine](#), was carried Jan 14 by [Heart Zine](#).

BRIEFS

The Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica was referenced Jan. 12 in an article on the website of NBC's Tucson affiliate, [KVOA.com](#).

Recommendations made by Melissa Brymer, director of terrorism and disaster programs at the UCLA–Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, were cited Jan. 7 in a [News Times](#) (Connecticut) article about tensions surrounding dwindling enrollments in Newtown schools following the 2012 shootings in Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The [Elder Index](#), a poverty measurement tool developed by The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, was cited Jan 9 in a [Times of San Diego](#) story about a local group that serves seniors in poverty.

Data from the [California Health Interview Survey](#), conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited Jan 12 in a [CityWatch L.A.](#) story

about the connection between flu shot campaigns and second- and third-generation Latinos, who have a lower rate of vaccination than their immigrant parents and grandparents.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of the UCLA Division of Cardiology, was quoted Jan. 12 in [HealthDay News](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#) on a recent study indicating that patients who take statins before and after heart bypass surgery have fewer complications and a reduced risk of dying during and soon after surgery. On Jan. 12, [U.S. News & World Report](#) also quoted Fonarow, an American Heart Association spokesperson, for an article that focused on the growing problem of heart failure worldwide that included vital guidance from international experts seeking to improve patient survival and quality of life. [U.S. News & World Report](#) and [Newsmax](#) Jan. 11 quoted Fonarow who reviewed the findings of a study suggesting that exercise may reduce the chances of developing heart disease for people with depression.

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of UCLA's Gambling Studies Program, commented Jan. 11 in a [Baltimore Sun](#) article about the limited odds of winning this week's historic lottery jackpot.

Dr. Edward Garon, associate clinical professor of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Jan. 11 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about the initiative known as Cancer Moonshot 2020, aimed at speeding up new treatments to find a cure for cancer.

Michael Jerrett, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Jan. 8 in the Los Angeles [Daily News](#), Jan. 11 in [The Guardian](#) (U.K.) and Jan. 12 in [RT](#) about levels of benzene related to Porter Ranch's ongoing natural gas leak, which began in October 2015. Jerrett headed a long-term benzene study in Toronto, where he found it was related to lung cancer, and he plans to conduct independent tests in Porter Ranch.

Emanuel Maidenberg, an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, commented Jan. 11 in a [KTTV-Channel 11](#) report on the chances of a historic lottery jackpot bringing its winners happiness of similarly oversized proportions.

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician and gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, was quoted in the January/February issue of 805 Living magazine in an article about how to make informed lifestyle changes in 2016.

Nadereh Pourat, adjunct professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of research at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented Jan. 9 in the [San Gabriel Tribune](#) about how the City of Industry paid an average of \$42,770 in 2014 for each employee's health care benefits—more than double the state average.

Dr. Karol Watson, director of the UCLA Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program and co-director of the UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology, was quoted Jan. 12 in a [WebMD](#) feature on how to spot heart attack, stroke and angina symptoms and when a visit to the emergency room should transpire.

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